AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

31. **(Currently Amended)** ~~[A]~~ The process of claim 41 wherein the ~~[for the detection of HIV-3 retrovirus or of its RNA in a biological liquid or tissue, characterized by contacting nucleic acids contained in said biological liquid or tissue with a]~~ DNA probe ~~[containing]~~ contains at least 360 contiguous sequences corresponding to the genomic RNA of the HIV-3 retrovirus ~~[under stringent hybridization conditions, washing the hybrid formed with a solution preserving said stringent conditions, and detecting the hybrid formed]~~.

37. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe comprises SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof.

38. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or the complement thereof.

39. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe corresponds to the nucleotide sequence coding for proteins p12, p16 or p25 of the HIV-3 retrovirus or the complement thereof.

40. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe corresponds to the nucleotide sequence coding for glycoproteins gp41 or gp120 of the HIV-3 retrovirus or the complement thereof.

41. **(New)** A process for the detection of HIV-3 retrovirus or of its RNA in a biological liquid or tissue containing nucleic acid, characterized by:

a) contacting nucleic acids contained in said biological liquid or tissue with a DNA probe;

b) hybridizing the nucleic acid from the biological liquid or tissue with the DNA probe under stringent hybridization conditions to form a nucleic acid:DNA probe hybrid;

c) washing the hybrid under stringent conditions; and

d) detecting the presence of the nucleic acid:DNA probe hybrid;

wherein the DNA probe specifically hybridizes with the genomic RNA of the HIV-3 retrovirus deposited at the European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures (ECACC) under No. V88060301.